

Why the terminal?

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Outline

Introducing Clara Kim

- ▶ tk2@wellesley.edu (she's in Zulip chat too @**Clara Kim**)
- ▶ Summer session tutor - ask her to help!
 - ▶ OK to share assignment code with her
 - ▶ She doesn' report to me

Reasons to use the terminal

- ▶ many bioinformatics tools are only usable via “Command Line Interfaces” (CLIs)
- ▶ Many biological file types are enormous and will break your GUI application
- ▶ Most “big data” or “-omics” type of analysis must be done on High-performance clusters (HPCs), most of which run headless linux
- ▶ Concepts needed for effective terminal use (eg paths) are useful / necessary in all kinds of programming
- ▶ It’s fun! (no, really)
- ▶ Once you’re over the learning curve, many common tasks are easier

Terminal gotchas

Terminal gotcha #1 - no mouse

Solutions

- ▶ use arrow keys
 - ▶ alt + ← and alt + → (Mac) or ctrl + ← and ctrl + → (Linux/Windows) can move whole words at a time
- ▶ Some useful shortcuts:
- ▶ ctrl + a : jump to beginning of line
- ▶ ctrl + e : jump to end of line
- ▶ ctrl + u : delete from cursor to beginning of line
- ▶ ctrl + k : delete from cursor to end of line

Terminal gotcha #2 - less visual

- ▶ use ls, pwd, git status etc. frequently to keep track of where you are
- ▶ Use TAB for completions

Handy terminal tricks

Customizing your terminal